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Letters

Security Directive 84 Has Not Gone Away

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To the Editor:

Contrary to the belief expressed by Prof. Thomas Ehrlich ("Government Assaults on the Realm of Ideas," letter, Dec. 28), writing about Administration encroachments on academic freedom, National Security Decision Directive 84 has not been "temporarily withdrawn by the President." This rumor was initiated by the White House to calm the storm of protest that arose when the directive was first published.

Although the rumor gained wide acceptance by constant repetition, it was squelched where it counted most: in the Federal agencies to which the order had been directed.

As the Columbia Journalism Review reported in its July-August 1984 issue, some 50 department and office heads — not just chiefs of sensitive agencies like the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency — received letters from the National Security Council ordering continued enforcement of all but two sections of National Security Decision Directive 84.

Thus, except for the legally challengeable lie-detector provisions, the life-long censorship of all employee and ex-employee books, articles and analyses of Government policy remains in effect.

WILBUR EDEL
Mifflinburg, Pa., Dec. 28, 1984

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